

*Florida.*—At about 17:20, on 20 May 1976, in the East Wilderness area of Fish-eating Creek Campground, Glades County, Florida, Gaby watched a Turkey Vulture from about 10 m as it landed on the sloping bank of Fish-eating Creek. The vulture walked down the bank to the creek and into the water to a depth at which the water was almost in contact with its belly feathers. Then the bird began, apparently, to search for something in the water. It made several stabs at the surface with its bill and, at the same time, spread its wings as if for balance. When it raised its head it had a wiggling fish, approximately 10 cm long, in its bill. The vulture walked back to shore where it consumed its catch. After eating the fish, the vulture reentered the water and made additional attempts at “fishing” which were not successful.

These instances, while probably not representative of typical vulture behavior, indicate a potential for using different foraging tactics. At a time when “traditional” vulture food may be becoming less available, perhaps more aggressive and more opportunistic foraging tactics will be selected for.

We wish to thank Oscar Owte and Ren Lohofener for helpful comments on various parts of this note.—JEROME A. JACKSON, *Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State 39762*; IRVINE D. PRATHER AND RICHARD N. CONNER, *Department of Biology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg 24061*; AND SHEILA PARNES GABY, *Department of Biology, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL 33124. Accepted 18 Dec. 1976.*

**A new hybrid warbler combination.**—An unusual warbler captured in a mist net on 12 October 1967 at Nantucket, Nantucket Co., Massachusetts, was preserved as a specimen by Baird who suspected that it was a hybrid. It was a female with an incompletely ossified skull and weighed 12.0 g. On comparison with other preserved material, the bird was tentatively identified as a hybrid Yellow-rumped (Myrtle), *Dendroica coronata*, × Bay-breasted, *D. castanea*, Warbler. It was similarly and independently identified by Banks after comparison with material in the National Museum of Natural History. This hybrid combination was not mentioned by Gray (Bird Hybrids, Commonwealth Agric. Bur., Farnham Royal, Bucks, England, 1958) and has not, to our knowledge, been reported in subsequent literature. The following comparative description is based on immature (first fall) females of the presumed parental species.

The hybrid Myrtle × Bay-breasted Warbler (USNM 567882) is very similar dorsally to a Blackpoll Warbler (*D. striata*) and might easily be mistaken for that species at a glance. It is, however, slightly darker and somewhat grayer. The back and nape color is intermediate between the rather bright yellowish-green of the Bay-breast and the brownish of the Myrtle. The crown of the hybrid is lighter than the back, approaching the color of the Bay-breast. Feathers of the crown have, distal to the basal gray area, a small spot of white along the rachis and a suffusion of yellow extending onto the vanes; the tips of these feathers are green. Neither the white nor the yellow is as extensive as in the Myrtle Warbler. There is a yellowish cast on the rump feathers of the hybrid, but none of these feathers has the bright yellow tip characteristic of the Myrtle. The upper tail coverts are edged with silvery gray, as are those of the Myrtle, in contrast to the green-tipped gray coverts of the Bay-breast.

The ventral body surface is essentially plain, with a faint band of dark spots across the breast. Some of the flank feathers, particularly the more posterior ones, have dark

shaft streaks. In both of these characters, the hybrid is similar to the Myrtle, although not as extensively marked. The abdomen is white as in the Myrtle. Otherwise the ventral coloration (including the under tail coverts) is buffy as in the Bay-breast, although paler. This buffiness rules out *D. striata* as a possible parent. There is a very slight yellowish cast on some mid-flank feathers but no indication of yellow on the throat. There are large white spots on the inner vanes of the outer 2 rectrices on either side, and a smaller white spot on the third rectrix on the right. The Bay-breasted Warbler typically has such spots on the outer 2 rectrices, the Myrtle on the outer 2 or 3. The small amount of white on the rectrices and the lack of yellow on the throat, as well as consideration of geographic ranges, eliminates the Audubon type of Yellow-rumped Warbler from consideration as a possible parent.

Measurements (by Banks) of a small series of each parental form indicate that although there is considerable overlap, the Myrtle Warbler averages slightly smaller than the Bay-breast in wing and tarsus length and the Bay-breast is slightly smaller in length of the tail and middle toe. In each of these measurements, the hybrid is smaller than the mean of the smaller species, although within the range of variation of the smaller or of both parental forms. There is little overlap in the length of the bill, measured from the anterior edge of the nostril, in the parental species, the Bay-breast being longer billed. The presumed hybrid is very near the mean of the Myrtle Warbler in this measurement. Thus the hybrid is in most respects smaller than either parental species, in contrast to the intermediate size often noted in hybrids.

Parke (Condor 63:348-449, 1961) has pointed out that all known wood warbler hybrids are either intergeneric or between members of closely related species-pairs. This seems to be the first report of an intrageneric hybrid between species not members of a species-pair.

In characterizing the genus *Dendroica*, Ridgway (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 50, pt. 2, 1902) noted that the wing is rather pointed with the "four outermost primaries abruptly longest . . ." except in the distinctive rounded-winged Antillean species and in *D. magnolia*, in which the outer primary is reduced. He did not mention that in 3 species—*D. castanea*, *D. striata*, and *D. caerulea*—only the 3 outermost primaries are abruptly longer than the inner ones (*D. fusca* nearly approaches this condition). The hybrid is similar to *D. coronata* in having a wing tip made up of 4 long feathers rather than 3 as in *D. castanea*.—RICHARD C. BANKS, *Div. of Cooperative Research, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240*, and JAMES BAIRD, *Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773*. Accepted 26 Sept. 1976.